

5th March*1926]

Assignment of punja lands to ex-military men.

* 1536 Q.—MR. R. VEERIAN : With reference to question No. 1107 answered at the meeting of the Coupeil on 16th December 1925, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state why about 100 acres of punja land lying to the west of A. Kurumbur forest, Kattianallur, south of Mepulliyur, east of Kurumbur Veelakuttai, and north of Nachiarpet, are under contemplation for assignment on darkhast to ex-military men, when the Adi-Dravidas of B. Killanur village, Olundurpet, Tirukkoyilur taluk, South Arcot district, are in enjoyment of those lands for the past five years under the orders of the Deputy Tahsildar of that range, having spent about Rs. 800 for bringing the lands under cultivable state and when they have obtained necessary receipts also for assessment?

A.—The Government are not aware that any such assignment is in contemplation.

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“I understand from the question that some lands have been given to Adi-Dravidas on cowl for five years. They have spent Rs. 800 on the lands and made them cultivable. They are fit to be given on darkhast even to outsiders. The answer is ‘the Government are not aware that any such assignment is in contemplation’. Why should not the lands be given to the people who are in possession of them now and who have spent Rs. 800 for the improvement of the lands.”

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“Perhaps the Adi-Dravidas are in enjoyment of these on a system of cowl.” 11-15 a.m.

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“The question and the answer taken together show that the Adi-Dravidas of B. Killanur village are in enjoyment of these lands for the past five years under the orders of the Deputy Tahsildar. In spite of what my hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, may say, whether the depressed classes are in enjoyment of these lands on cowl—I took it to be something like cowl—or under some other arrangement, I suggest that the lands may be given to the Adi-Dravidas who have been in enjoyment of them for the past five years on patta to prevent the risk of some other persons like sepoys and others coming and taking them on dharkhast.”

The hon. MR. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“I have no information with regard to these particular lands. If these lands were under the occupation of the Adi-Dravidas for the past five years, those who are in occupation should be given the first option, and I quite agree with my hon. Friend there.”

Transfer of grazing grounds to the Labour Department.

* 1537 Q.—MR. D. MANJAYYA HEGGADE : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the lands so far reserved as grazing grounds for the benefit of ryots have been made over to the Labour Department and assigned on darkhast to various applicants; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government propose to take for the maintenance of grazing grounds for the cattle?

A—(a) & (b) Government are not aware that this is a fact.

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Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—"The answer given to this question is 'The Government are not aware that this is a fact'. May I know to which portion of clause (a) of the question this answer refers, whether it is with reference to the making over of the lands to the Labour Department or whether it is with reference to the assignment on darkhast to various applicants?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"The first portion of clause (a) of the question asks 'Whether Government are aware that the lands reserved as grazing grounds for the benefit of ryots have been made over to the Labour Department'. The answer must necessarily be to that portion."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—"May I take it that lands have been reserved as grazing grounds?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"No, Sir."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU :—"Arising out of the answer given, may I know whether the hon. the Revenue Member is aware that communal porambokes are generally reserved for grazing grounds and whether he is granting these communal porambokes to Adi-Dravidas?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I am not able to answer the question in that general form. It all depends upon what the hon. Member means by communal porambokes."

Suspension of village officers in Tanjore taluk.

* 1538 Q.—Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that about seventy village officers have been suspended during the last six months in the Tanjore taluk, in the Tanjore district;

(b) whether the number of punishments was greater during the last six months than at any corresponding period before; and

(c) what the offences are for which they have been punished?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information.

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"The answer given to this question is 'The Government have no information'. Am I to understand that Government called for this information and they did not get it?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I did not call for it."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"May I know, Sir, why?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"That is a matter in which local officers have full authority. I exercised my discretion and found that it was unnecessary to call for any information."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"I am perfectly aware that local officers have full authority in the matter. But I would point out that it is rather extraordinary that seventy village officers have been suspended during the last six months in the Tanjore taluk alone. Had it not been for the extraordinary way in which these unfortunate village officers were punished,